dispensary-wise strength. At present, out of two vacancies of Homoeopathic Pharmacists, one post is reserved for OBC. The names of candidates from the Central Employment Exchange have been received and further action to fill up the vacancies is under active process.

Ban on Tobacco and Gutkha

†1472. SHRI RAMA SHANKER KAUSHIK:
DR. D. MASTHAN:
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH:
DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposed to put a ban on the production of tobacco and various brands of *Gutkhas* and *Pan Masalas* in view of the growing disease of cancer in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) what action Government propose to take till implementation of the decision?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE [DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA]: (a) to (c) There is no proposal to ban the production of tobacco or pan masala. However a proposal for a comprehensive legislation banning the advertisements of all Tobacco and Tobacco products, including Gutkha, is under consideration of the Government.

(d) Under the PFA Rules 1955, compulsory warning is required to be indicated on the label of pan masala and gutkha to the following extent:

(i) Chewing of Pan Masala may be injurious to health.

(ii) Chewing of Tobacco is injurious to health.

The Food (Health) Authorities of States/UTs have been advised to educate the masses to discourage the use of these products. The

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

advertisement of pan masala and tobacco products has been banned on A.I.R. and Doordarshan.

Investigations pending against DCGI

1473. SHRI KHAN GHUFRAN ZAHIDI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) how many investigations are pending against Drug Control General of India and other key-posted officers;

(b) whether any case of bribe from multinational companies allowing export of new drugs, has come to the notice of the Government; and

(c) if so, the names of the officials involved and action being taken against them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE [DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA]: (a) One case relating to alleged disproportionate assets of former Drug Control General of India (presently Officer on Special Duty) and another against a Gr. "B" Technical Officer posted in Cargo Office, Mumbai are under investigation by the CBI.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Appointment of SCs/STs in Educational Fields

1474. SHRI R.N. ARYA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the 'Form of SC/ST MPs, in representations submitted to Prime Minister on 17th December, 1996, 1st January, 1997 and 23rd July, 1998 had demanded appointment of adequate number of SCs/STs in higher echelons of administration, in the field of education, among others; and

(b) if so, the total number of posts of Vice-Chancellors and equivalents thereof in Central Universities/Deemed Universities and other Universities receiving aid from Central Government and the number of persons belonging to SCs/STs working against such post as